

Thursday, 12 July 1990

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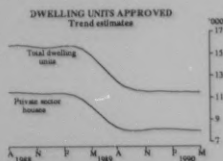
Dwelling unit approvals: trend remains flat

The number of private sector houses approved in May 1990 rose by 5.7 per cent on the April figure in seasonally adjusted terms. However, this followed a 10 per cent fall in April.

Total dwelling units approved also rose in May (4.3%) following a 7.9 per cent decline in the previous month.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, MAY 1990

	Private sector houses		Total dwelling units	
	No.	Percentage change on previous month	No.	Percentage change on previous month
Original	8,964	29.2	13,003	32.9
Seasonally adjusted	7,997	5.7	11,465	4.3
Trend estimate	7,945	-0.5	11,451	-0.4



As the accompanying chart demonstrates, the trend for both private houses and total dwelling unit approvals has remained relatively constant over the past six months, after a steep decline through most of 1989.

Seasonally adjusted, the value of total building (residential and non-residential) approved in May 1990 was \$2,243 million, 12.8 per cent higher than the April figure of \$1,988 million, but 14.6 per cent down on May 1989.

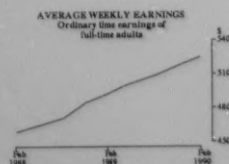
For further information, order the publication *Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0), or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

Continued steady wages growth confirmed

Final estimates show that average weekly ordinary time earnings for full-time adult employees rose by 1.6 per cent, from \$516.60 to \$524.70 in the three months to February 1990. These figures confirm the preliminary estimates released in May.

The rise results from the flow-through of increases handed down in the National Wage Case decision of August 1989. This decision allowed for an increase of \$15.00 (or 3%, whichever is greater) for skilled workers, \$12.50 for semi-skilled workers and \$10.00 for unskilled workers. It is estimated that approximately 85 per cent of full-time adult employees had received an increase by the February reference period.

Continued ...



Average weekly *total* earnings for full-time adults increased by 0.9% in the three months from November 1989, and 6.5% in the year from February 1989, to \$558.60.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, FEBRUARY 1990
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings

	Weekly earnings			Percentage change in 'Persons' from	
	Males \$	Females \$	Persons \$	Previous period	Corresponding period in previous year
Private sector	544.00	433.20	509.20	0.8	6.6
Public sector	581.50	512.00	555.80	3.0	6.8
All sectors	555.80	462.40	524.70	1.6	6.6

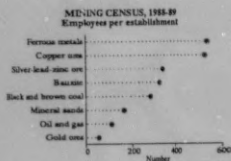
For further information, order the publication *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia (6302.0)* or contact *Information Services* (see page 6).

Mining census — preliminary results

First results from the 1988-89 Mining Census show that 64,677 people were employed by 372 mining establishments in Australia.

Employment was concentrated in three States, with Western Australia having the largest workforce of 20,156 employees (31.2%), followed by New South Wales 19,737 (30.5%) and Queensland 16,339 (25.3%).

The ferrous metals and copper ores industries had the highest number of employees per establishment, averaging 544 and 535 respectively. At the other end of the scale were gold ores with 59 employees per establishment and oil and gas with 115.



MINING, 1988-89

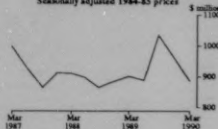
Establishment type	Number of establishments at 30 June 1989	Number employed at 30 June 1989	Value added \$m
Metallic minerals	231	31,980	5,876
Ferrous metal ores	14	7,619	909
Non-ferrous metal ores	217	24,361	4,967
Coal, oil and gas	141	32,697	6,604
Total	372	64,677	12,480

Total wages and salaries paid by the industry were \$2,685 million — an average of \$41,500 per employee.

Note: this particular mining census does not include the "construction materials" and "other non-metallic minerals" industries. They will be included in the now triennial complete census of mining, next scheduled for the 1989-90 financial year.

For further information, order the publication *Census of Mining Establishments, Summary of Operations by Industry Class, Australia, Preliminary (8401.0)*, or contact *Ashley Huddle* on (06) 252 5636.

ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
Value of work done by private sector
Seasonally adjusted 1984-85 prices



Engineering construction Private sector decline continues

Engineering construction carried out by the private sector continued to fall during the March quarter 1990.

Seasonally adjusted estimates at average 1984-85 prices show that the value of engineering work done by the private sector during the quarter fell by 8.0 per cent. This follows a 6.9 per cent fall in the December quarter 1989.

Over the six months to March, the decline in private sector work has been somewhat greater in projects for private sector owners than in those for public sector owners.

... Public sector remains high

The value of work done by the public sector, in original average 1984-85 price terms, for the March 1990 quarter increased by 2.8 per cent over the December 1989 quarter.

Work done in March quarter 1990 was 25.5 per cent higher by value than work done during the March 1989 quarter.

ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION, VALUE OF WORK DONE
At average 1984-85 prices, March quarter 1990

	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter in previous year
By the private sector			
Original	853.9	-15.2	-1.6
Seasonally adjusted	886.6	-8.0	-1.6
By the public sector (original)	986.3	2.8	25.5

For further information, order the publication *Engineering Construction Survey*, Australia (8762.0), or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

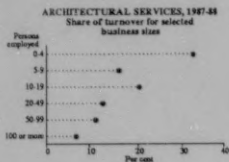
Architects in perspective

Private sector professional architect firms, consultants and architectural drafting services, employed about 18,000 people in Australia in 1987-88. The 4,500 businesses in the industry generated turnover of \$1,030 million that year, mostly in the form of fees for professional services.

These findings are from a new ABS survey of the architectural services industry, and several other professional and business service industries, as they stood in 1987-88. The survey follows a similar study of personal and travel-related service industries in 1986-87, and is the first such survey to cover the professional and business services field.

The statistics also show that in the architectural services industry:

- ☐ turnover, mostly fees for professional services, was equivalent to about \$57,000 for each person working in the industry.
- ☐ firms employing less than five people averaged turnover of about \$47,000 per person, while this increased to about \$88,000 for the seven largest firms in the industry.
- ☐ 8 per cent of males and 38 per cent of the females working in the industry were working part-time.
- ☐ 98 per cent of the businesses in the industry employed less than 20 persons, and only 7 businesses employed more than 100 persons.
- ☐ overall, profit or net operating surplus was about 18 per cent of the industry's turnover.



ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES INDUSTRY, 1987-88
ANALYSIS OF TURNOVER

	Value \$m	Percentage
Turnover	1,030.4	100.0
From which is paid—		
Staff expenses	394.3	38.3
Occupancy expenses	45.6	4.4
Vehicle and equipment expenses	62.5	6.1
Other operating expenses	342.7	33.3
Leaving—		
Net operating surplus	185.3	18.0

The survey results are found in the publication *Architectural Services Industry, Australia* (8664.0). More detailed statistics, including formats allowing businesses to compare their own results with industry averages, are now being prepared by the ABS. To be advised when this detailed information becomes available contact Peter White on (06) 252 5633.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

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Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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All the week's releases: 4 to 10 July

General

Statistics Weekly, 5 July 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Economic Indicators, Vic., June 1990 (1307.2; \$5.00)
Pocket Year Book of South Australia, 1990 (1302.4; \$8.00)

Demography

Divorces, Qld, 1989 (3305.3; \$4.00)

Social statistics

Public Hospital Morbidity, Aust., 1988 (4301.2; \$7.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Information Paper: Australian National Accounts: Flow of Funds, Developmental Estimates, March and June Qtrs 1989 (5232.0; free) — *new issue*

Imports, Aust., Monthly Summary Tables, May 1990 (5433.0; \$8.00)

Private New Capital Expenditure, Aust., Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, March Qtr 1990 Survey (5626.0; \$8.50)

Commercial Finance, Aust., February 1990 (5643.0; \$5.00)

Labour statistics and prices

Average Weekly Earnings, States and Aust., February 1990 (6302.0; \$8.50)

Corrigendum: 1988-89 Household Expenditure Survey, Aust.: Summary of Results (6530.0; free)

The Labour Force, Qld, May 1990 (6201.3; \$12.00)

Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., May 1990 (7215.0; \$5.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Production of Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, Aust., March 1990 (8357.0; \$5.50)

Census of Mining Establishments: Summary of Operations by Industry Class, Aust., 1988-89, Preliminary (8401.0; \$3.00)

Architectural Services Industry, Aust., 1987-88 (8664.0; \$8.00) — *new issue*

Building Approvals, Aust., May 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)

Engineering Construction Survey, Aust., March Qtr 1990 (8762.0; \$8.00)

Production Statistics, NSW, April 1990 (8304.1; \$5.00)

Building Approvals, NSW, May 1990 (8731.1; \$8.60)

Tourist Accommodation, Qld, March Qtr 1990 (8635.3; \$13.00)

Building Activity, WA, March Qtr 1990 (8752.5; \$8.00)

Building Approvals, SA, May 1990 (8731.4; \$8.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, April 1990, Preliminary (8740.4; \$3.30)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, May 1990 (9303.5; \$5.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 24 July 1990

- 12 The Labour Force, Australia, June 1990, Preliminary
(6202.0; \$8.50)
- 16 Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, May 1990
(6354.0; \$10.00)
- 18 Retail Trade, Australia, May 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)
- 19 Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, May 1990
(5609.0; \$8.00)
- 23 Export Price Index, Australia, May 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)

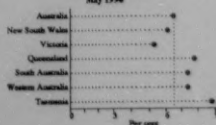
The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
10 July 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 89)*	0.6	5.0	27.4	24.3	-6.9	-34.5	n.a.	n.a.	4.4
Retail turnover (Apr. 90) (trend estimate)	8.8	4.5	7.9	5.7	6.6	9.6	n.a.	8.8	6.9
New motor vehicle registrations (May 90)*	14.3	35.3	10.6	1.0	-8.2	n.a.	5.4	3.4	14.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals (May 90)	-18.4	-32.1	-29.8	7.6	-31.5	-25.1	63.0	9.7	-24.2
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr)	20.3	13.7	15.6	23.4	24.1	9.1	15.9	5.6	17.6
Employed persons (May 90)*	1.8	2.3	3.7	2.4	2.0	5.0	-2.1	3.7	2.4
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 90)	9.1	8.7	7.8	6.9	9.1	7.2	6.2	8.3	8.6
Average weekly earnings (full- time adult ordinary time) (February 90)	8.0	6.4	5.1	7.5	4.5	7.3	4.8	6.4	6.6
Population (Dec. 89)	0.9	1.3	3.1	1.1	2.8	0.9	-0.1	2.2	1.6
Guest nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Sept. qtr 89)	-8.5	19.0	-24.5	13.8	4.5	-6.6	2.1	-6.7	-7.9

* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted
May 1990



				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
Period							
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 90	89,263	94,113	2.3	9.8
	— 1984-85 prices			62,050	65,441	1.8	4.4
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 90	6,200	6,995	-1.5	-2.4
	— 1984-85 prices			4,657	5,244	-2.9	-8.1
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to June 90	8,040	n.a.	n.a.	-4.8
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Apr. 90	6,618	7,104	1.6	7.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 90	14,013	14,836	0.0	1.4
New motor vehicle registrations (e)		no.	May 90	60,338	54,239	0.5	14.2
Dwelling unit approvals		"		13,003	11,465	+4.3	-25.9
Value of all building approvals		\$m		2,587	2,243	+12.8	-14.6
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Dec. qtr 89	8,109	7,741	-0.4	17.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 90	3,248	3,010	-2.3	6.5
Manufacturers' sales		"	Mar. qtr 90	33,133	36,124	2.4	8.3
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to June 90	36,461	n.a.	n.a.	6.3
Labour							
Employed persons (f)		'000	May 90	7,916.1	7,903.1	0.5	2.4
Unemployment rate † (f)		%	"	6.5	6.5	0.3	0.3
Participation rate † (f)		"	"	64.0	63.8	0.40.5	0.40.5
Job vacancies		'000	Feb. 90	60.9	56.1	-15.0	-15.9
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.4	1.4	-8.7	-3.5
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 90	204.1	n.a.	1.7	8.6	
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Mar. 90	119.9	n.a.	-1.3	2.0	
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0	Mar. 90	571.5	n.a.	0.7	6.6	
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Mar. qtr 90	3,668	4,633	9.0	2.0	
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Feb. 90	524.70	n.a.	1.6	6.6	
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	May 90	15.00	n.a.	-0.1	-3.2	
10-year Treasury bonds †		"	13.50	n.a.	-0.3	-0.4	
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	May 90	3,936	3,798	-7.0	1.0	
Imports of merchandise	"	"	4,115	3,822	-5.8	-11.9	
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-179	-24	n.a.	95.6	
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-458	-279	-22.9	70.0	
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,550	-1,343	0.4	28.1	
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 90	n.a.	104.0	-4.9	-5.9	
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 90	123,570	n.a.	5.3	15.3	
Net foreign liabilities		"	163,453	n.a.	2.8	17.5	
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
US\$	per \$A	May 90	0.7618	n.a.	-0.3	-1.5	
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	59.8	n.a.	-1.3	0.3	
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of yr)	million	Dec. 89	16.9	n.a.	0.4	1.6	
Overseas visitors	'000	Mar. 90	189	179	2.0	9.1	

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Wednesday, 11 July 1990. (f) Later figures released Thursday, 12 July 1990. n.a. = not available. NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary; some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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